

Dear Senator Williams:

On behalf of the Mary Byron Project, I urge you to find funds to continue a vital victims' program (VINE Protective Order) that is in danger of being cut.

Last Thursday, we held a press conference on the steps of the Capitol because the public was unaware that a service they had counted on to inform them of life-saving information was about to be lost. Domestic violence victims need to know when their abuser is served with a protective order because this is the time when they are most in danger. Studies show that a victim is 75% more likely to be killed by him (or her) when she leaves or when she makes his abuse public. Knowing when the order is served allows her to seek shelter or to go into hiding if necessary until the hearing.

Not knowing this information – but relying on it- may cause a death.

The Mary Byron Project, fostering innovations and strategies to end domestic violence is a national 501 (C) (3) charity looking for programs throughout the country that can truly make a difference. We sought funds from the federal government in 2005, and contracted to put this service into the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Approximately 4000 people are registered for the service right now. Thousands more use the service to find information about the status of their order.

This is not a service that can be turned off with like a light switch. Staff would need to be used or hired by clerks or sheriffs throughout Kentucky to try and call victims who are registered to tell them that they will NOT be getting this notice. The chance of reaching these people is slim, but the chance of a fatality resulting from a lack of notice is not.

PLEASE try to find the less than \$250,000 needed to continue this program.

I thank you for your time and applaud in advance your efforts.

Sincerely,

Marcia Roth

Executive Director